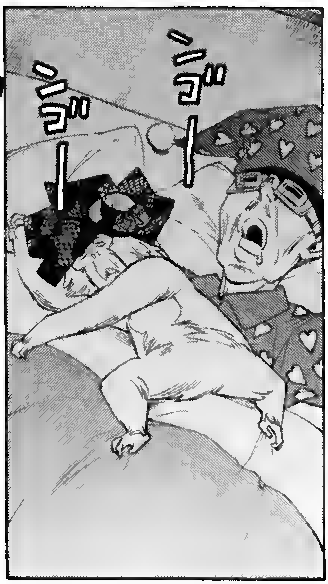
CHAPTER 65: ASSAULT! TOKOFUSHI TOWN
Pardon the intrusion!
It's okay, that was half the reason I came.
NOW MISAO, KEIICHI-KUN DIDN'T EXACTLY COME HERE TO PLAY
PLEASE PLAY WITH ME.
All right, there we go!
HEY, MISAO! HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD GIRL?
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU REMEMBER MY NAME, ISN'T IT?
Mister Caramel!
MISTER, TELL ME A STORY ABOUT TOKOFUSHI TOWN.
HMM, OH YEAH. WELL, LET'S SEE ..
I SEE. I'LL MAKE SURE TO LEARN IT
SO ALL GAMBLERS ARE STRUGGLING FOR THIS 32,000 POINT WIN AT LEAST ONCE.
LISTEN UP, MISAO THIS IS CALLED A KOKUSHI MUSOU 13-WAY WAIT.
GATHERING ALL THESE TILES IN ONE HAND IS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.

キラキラ
That's right, it was Christmas the other day.
I invited Niburu-chan on a date, but you know... she was so mean to me!
Christmas? What do you do on Christ's birthday...?
わくわく

ハッ!
ニヨーン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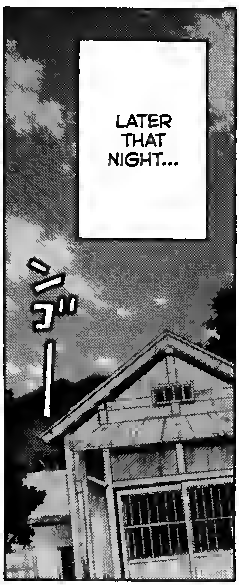
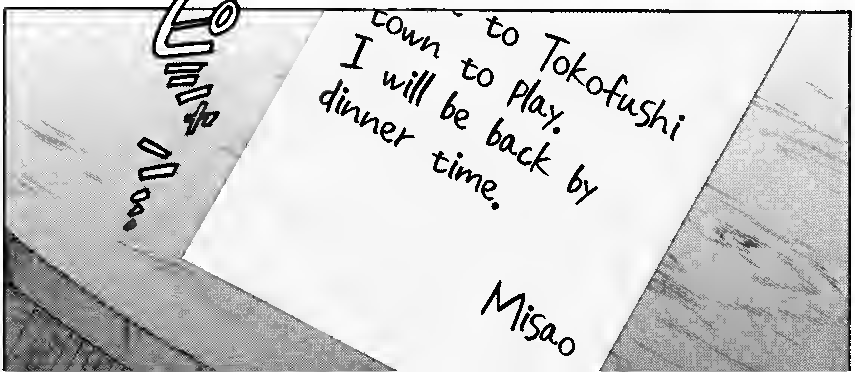
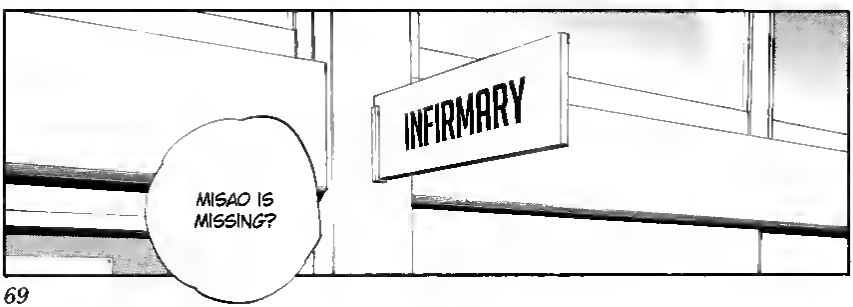

LATER THAT NIGHT...
ニヨーン

カラ?


ピンポーン♪
to Tokofushi
town to play.
I will be back by
dinner time.
Misao

CHAPTER 65
ASSAULT! TOKOFUSHI TOWN


INFIRMARY
MISAO IS MISSING?

WHAT SHOULD I DO?! SHE'S ONLY NINE!
I DON'T KNOW! SHE WROTE SHE WAS GOING BUT THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN SHE MADE IT THERE...
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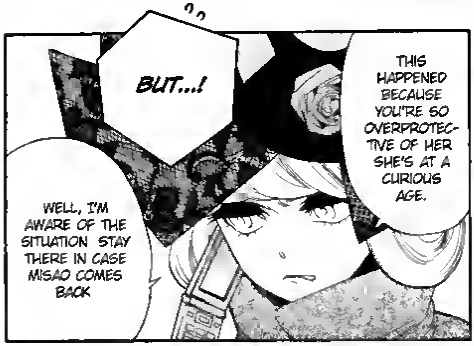
オロ

EH?
I UNDERSTAND SO JUST CALM DOWN FOR NOW, OLD MAN
YOU'RE SURE SHE CAME TO TOKOFUSHI TOWN?


BUT...!
THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU'RE SO OVERPROTEC-TIVE OF HER SHE'S AT A CURIOUS AGE.
WELL, I'M AWARE OF THE SITUATION STAY THERE IN CASE MISAO COMES BACK

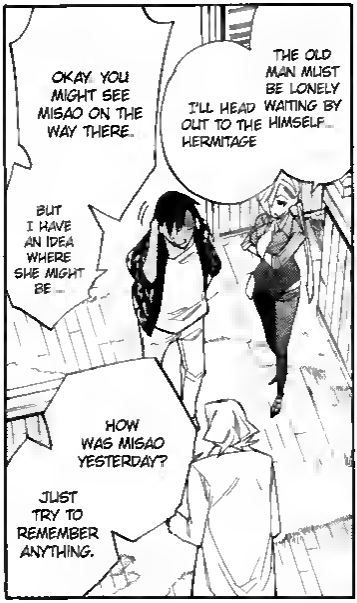
G... GOT IT...
I'LL LEAVE THIS TO YOU!
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR SOME EYEWIT-NESSES*!

*Cats

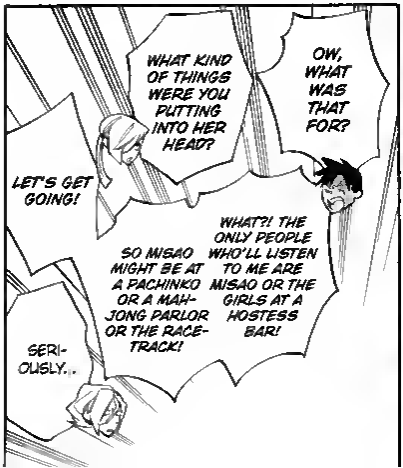
THIS IS PRETTY BAD, ISN'T IT?
I'M GOING TO GO LOOK FOR HER TOO.
THEN GO MEET UP WITH KEIICHI-KUN FIRST.
HE MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA OF WHERE MISAO IS TRYING TO GO
IT... IT CAN'T BE HELPED, CAN IT...?

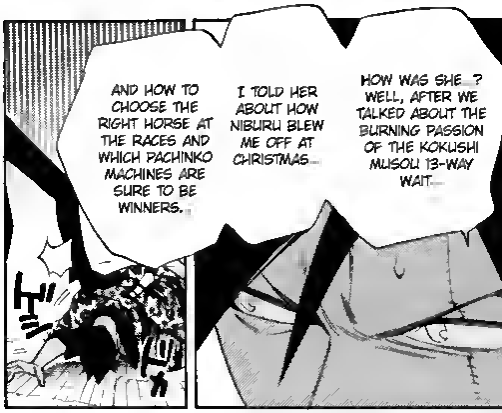
...
HMM!
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN YOUR HEART FEELS FULL?
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL ON THE MAP, I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS TOKOFUSHI TOWN..
HEY, WHO'S THAT KID?
THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
2
OOF!
!!!
SHE FELL—
...!?
ARE, YOU OKAY..?

DID YOU TWIST ANY-THING?
OF COURSE IT HURTS! YOU READ TOO MUCH MANGA!
I WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE BEFORE... WHY...?
TH...
THAT HURT...


OKAY. YOU MIGHT SEE MISAO ON THE WAY THERE.
THE OLD MAN MUST BE LONELY WAITING BY HIMSELF... I'LL HEAD OUT TO THE HERMITAGE
BUT I HAVE AN IDEA WHERE SHE MIGHT BE...
HOW WAS MISAO YESTERDAY?
JUST TRY TO REMEMBER ANYTHING.

MISAO IS GONE?!
I JUST SAW HER YESTERDAY!


WHAT KIND OF THINGS WERE YOU PUTTING INTO HER HEAD?
OW, WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
LET'S GET GOING!
SO MISAO MIGHT BE AT A PACHINKO OR A MAH-JONG PARLOR OR THE RACE-TRACK!
WHAT?! THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO'LL LISTEN TO ME ARE MISAO OR THE GIRLS AT A HOSTESS BAR!
SERI-OUSLY...


AND HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT HORSE AT THE RACES AND WHICH PACHINKO MACHINES ARE SURE TO BE WINNERS.
I TOLD HER ABOUT HOW NIBUIRU BLEW ME OFF AT CHRISTMAS...
HOW WAS SHE...? WELL, AFTER WE TALKED ABOUT THE BURNING PASSION OF THE KOKUSHI MUSOU 13-WAY WAIT...

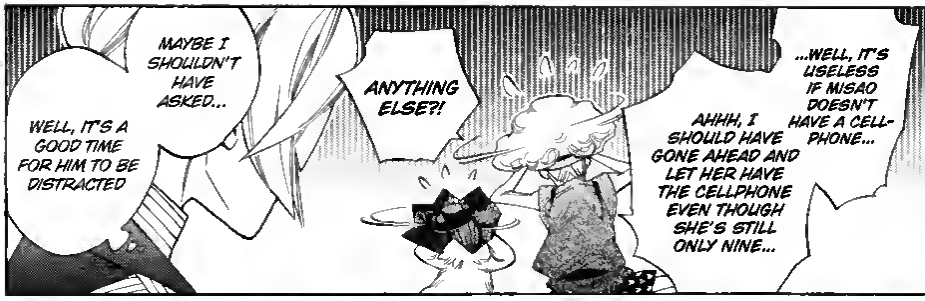
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OHHH...!
HEY. YORIKO-CHAN, LET'S NOT DO THIS.
WE'RE GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE...
So this is the what they call a school...!
I feel just like an archaeologist discovering some ancient ruins right now!
B... BUT...
If you don't want to, go home. I'll do it by myself.
We have to do something about it ourselves because we can't depend on the adults!
LET'S TALK TO THE GROWN-UPS FIRST

N-NO WAY, EHHH? I CAN'T! THAT'S DANGEROUS!
SHIORI, PUSH UP MY BUTT!
LET'S TRY TO CLIMB OVER
WE'RE NOT ALLOWED IN ON THE WEEKENDS
TODAY'S A SATURDAY, YOU KNOW...
HMM...
SO IT'S LOCKED AFTER ALL..
UM...
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS YOUR DAD?!
NO, THIS IS SOMETHING MY FATHER TAUGHT ME.
IT'S BECAUSE MISAO IS A GIRL WITH A DIRTY PAST...
カチッ
カチッカチッ
Awesome!
You did it! Are you a spy or something?
ガラガラ
THERE WE GO.

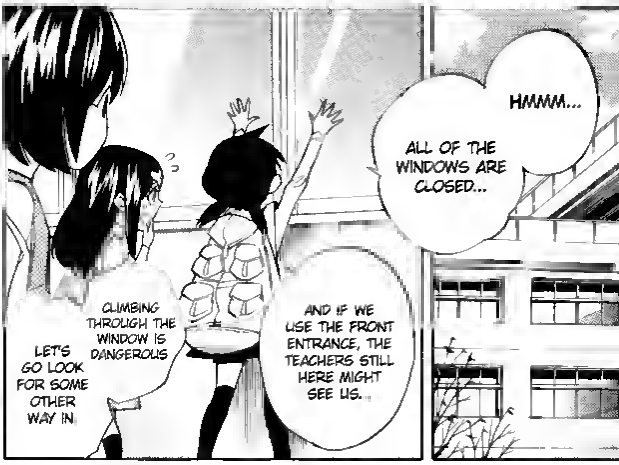
Stay quiet! If we get caught by the adults, it'll be all over!
ASHITABA...? IS THAT...
YORIKO-CHAN, YOU'RE THE ONE BEING THE LOUDEST...
You're pretty handy! Wanna hang with us for a little while?
This is Okumoto Shiori.
Well, whatever! I'm Ashitaba Yoriko.
MISAO IS MISAO.
DAMN IT, SHE WASN'T HERE EITHER...
麻雀
ヤニリーチ
SHE LISTENED TO ME WITH HER EYES ALL SPARKLY.
HUH? OF COURSE I AM!
HEY . ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT MISAO-CHAN SAID SHE WAS INTERESTED IN THESE PLACES ..?
STOP NITPICKING AND GET ON!
HEY, TSUKUMO-SAN.
...
WE'VE HIT UP ALMOST ALL OF THE MAHJONG CLUBS IN TOKOFUSHI...
HEY, DON'T SPACE OUT, ITSUHITO! WE'RE GOING TO THE PACHINKO PARLORS NEXT.

THE CURSED CELLPHONE.
IT'S A RARE GEM, INGRAINED WITH THE FEELINGS OF AN OVERBEARING MOTHER WHO WANTED TO KNOW HER SON'S EVERY MOVE.
テ:テレー

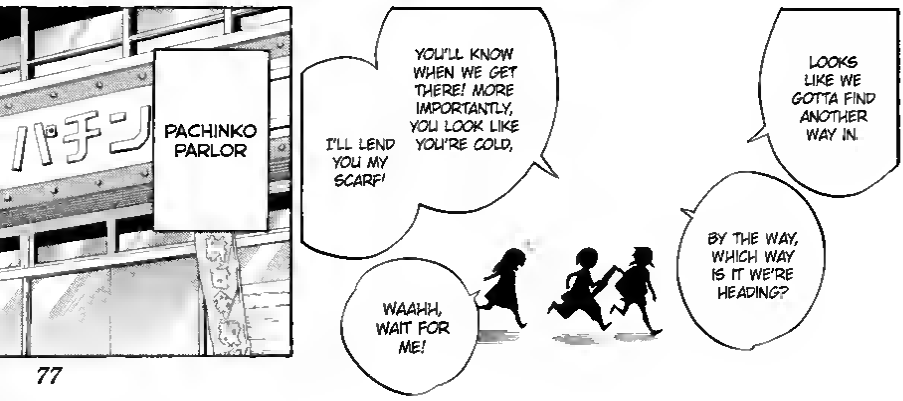
I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE FEELING AWFUL ABOUT THIS BUT...
DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHT FORM THAT MIGHT HELP US TO FIND OUT WHERE MISAO IS?
THAT'S RIGHT! I HAVE JUST THE THING!!


MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED...
WELL, IT'S A GOOD TIME FOR HIM TO BE DISTRACTED
ANYTHING ELSE?!
AHHH, I SHOULD HAVE GONE AHEAD AND LET HER HAVE THE CELLPHONE EVEN THOUGH SHE'S STILL ONLY NINE...
...WELL, IT'S USELESS IF MISAO DOESN'T HAVE A CELL-PHONE...

PLEASE STEP BACK.
HUH?
HI!


HMMM...
ALL OF THE WINDOWS ARE CLOSED...
AND IF WE USE THE FRONT ENTRANCE, THE TEACHERS STILL HERE MIGHT SEE US.
CLIMBING THROUGH THE WINDOW IS DANGEROUS
LET'S GO LOOK FOR SOME OTHER WAY IN.

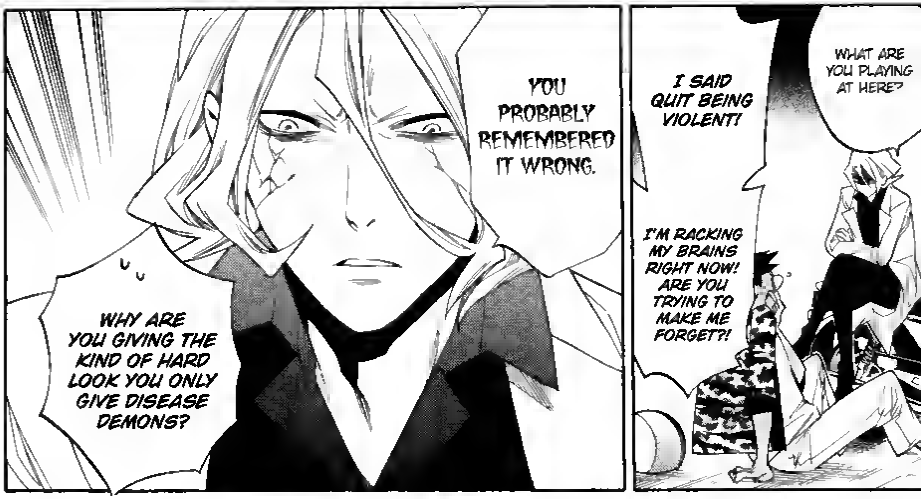
T... THAT HURT...
OF COURSE IT DID! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
A WHILE AGO, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTHING...
ゴゴゴゴ...

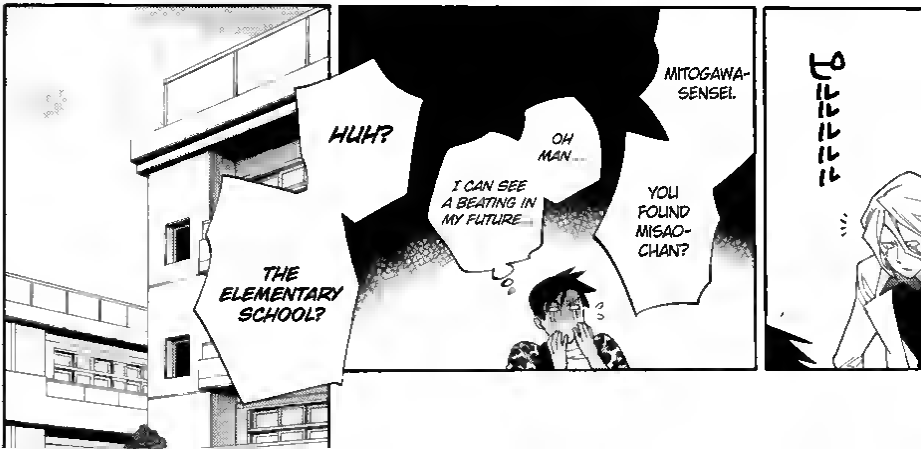

パチンコ
PACHINKO PARLOR
I'LL LEND YOU MY SCARF!
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN WE GET THERE! MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE COLD,
LOOKS LIKE WE GOTTA FIND ANOTHER WAY IN.
BY THE WAY, WHICH WAY IS IT WE'RE HEADING?
WAAHH, WAIT FOR ME!

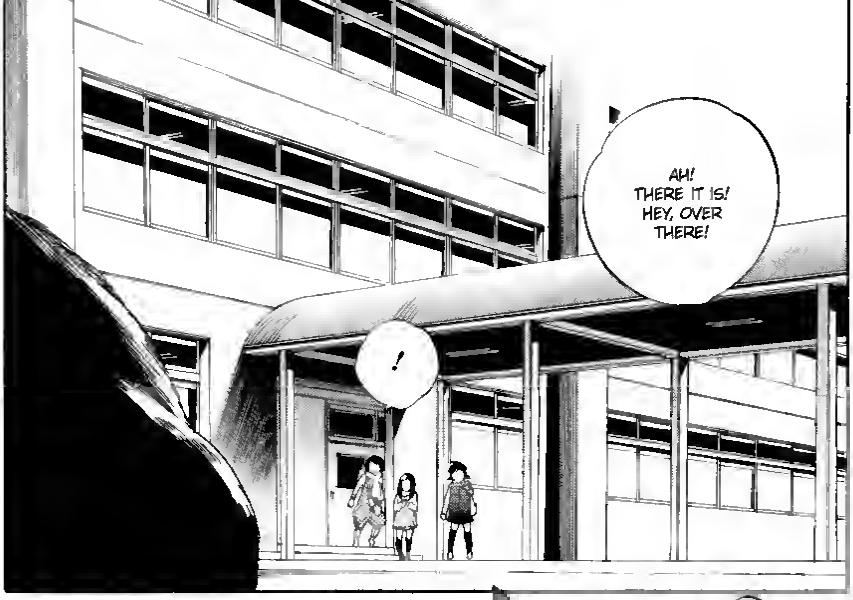
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO HIT ME!
SHE'S NOT HERE, IS SHE...?
IT'S OKAY! THERE'S STILL THE RACE TRACK!
ニヤ?
ゴン
OOOOF!
WE'RE GOING BY YOUR MEMORY HERE
YOU NEED TO GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER
WELL, COULD YOU QUIT HITTING ME UPSIDE THE HEAD?
HMM...
STAFF ROOM
WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS WAY BUT
WHY ARE THE TEACHERS TALKING IN THE HALLWAY, OF ALL PLACES?
MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE GONE—
NO! WE DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF THE OTHER TEACHERS WILL COME THROUGH HERE.

イヤ…
HMM? WHAT'S THAT?
A WORLD MAP? DID THE SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER DROP IT?
OH WELL, I GUESS WE'LL GO BRING IT BACK TO THEM.
AMAZING! SO COOL! THAT WAS LIKE A DETECTIVE SHOW!
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU? WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?
MISAO IS A 9-YEAR-OLD WHO DOESN'T GO TO SCHOOL
I'M LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL THAT I CAN GO TO .
MISTER IS HAVING A HARD TIME SAYING "YES"
I MEMORIZED THIS BACK WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL. WHAT COUNTRY WAS THIS ONE AGAIN?
IT'S INTERESTING TO LOOK AT SOMETHING LIKE THIS AS AN ADULT, ISN'T IT?

UUUGH!
RACETRACK


YOU PROBABLY REMEMBERED IT WRONG.
WHY ARE YOU GIVING THE KIND OF HARD LOOK YOU ONLY GIVE DISEASE DEMONS?
I SAID QUIT BEING VIOLENT!
I'M RACKING MY BRAINS RIGHT NOW! ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME FORGET?!
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT HERE?


HUH?
THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
OH MAN...
I CAN SEE A BEATING IN MY FUTURE...
MITOGAWA-SENSEI.
YOU FOUND MISAO-CHAN?
ヒルルルル

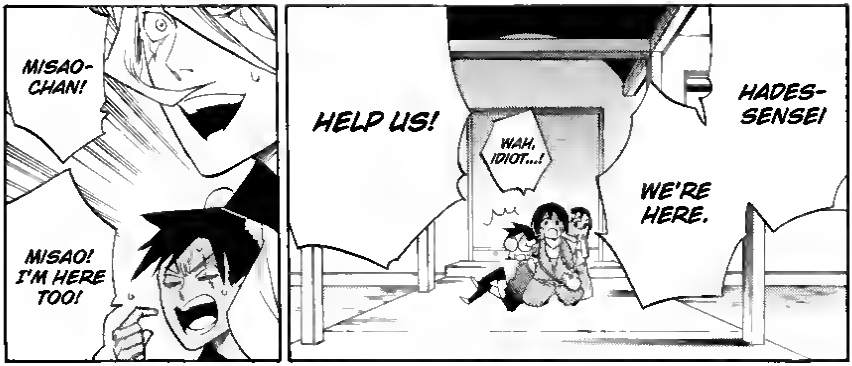

AH! THERE IT IS! HEY, OVER THERE!
!

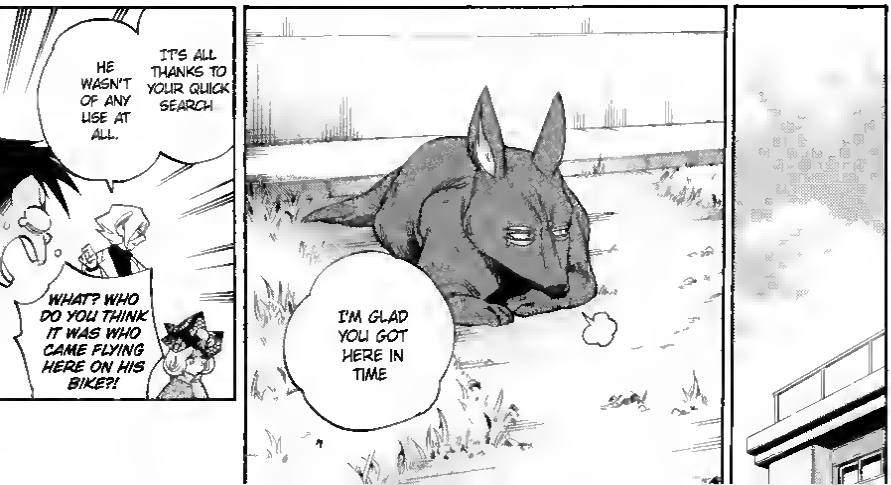
WHAT'S THAT...?
ANUBIS!
THAT DOGGIE SHOWED UP AT THE SCHOOL HURT THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY...
グルルルル!

THERE, THERE! YOU MUST BE HUNGRY! I'M COMING NOW!
THIS IS THE FIRST DAY OFF SINCE THE DOG CAME SO I WAS THINKING MAYBE...
WE'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF IT IN SECRET BY GIVING IT SCRAPS FROM OUR LUNCH AND STUFF BUT...
WE HEARD THE ADULTS ARE PLANNING ON RUNNING IT OUT OF THE SCHOOL

YORIKO-CHAN!
T-THAT SCARED ME!
WAIT! WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU?
IT'S ME! DID YOU FORGET?
!!?
KYAAA!
GRRRR...
HEY, WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M CALLING THE COPS!
!
OH NO, THE GROWN-UPS ARE COMING!
IT'S THE SAME AS THAT TIME...
WITH FATHER...
THIS FEELING...
GET BACK. IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS. !

!!
MAYBE MISAO-CHAN WILL BE THERE TOO...
I DON'T KNOW. BUT I SENSE A DISEASE DEMON.
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!


MISAO-CHAN!
MISAO! I'M HERE TOO!
HELP US!
WAH, IDIOT...!
HADES-SENSEI
WE'RE HERE.


HE WASN'T OF ANY USE AT ALL.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOUR QUICK SEARCH
WHAT? WHO DO YOU THINK IT WAS WHO CAME FLYING HERE ON HIS BIKE?!
I'M GLAD YOU GOT HERE IN TIME

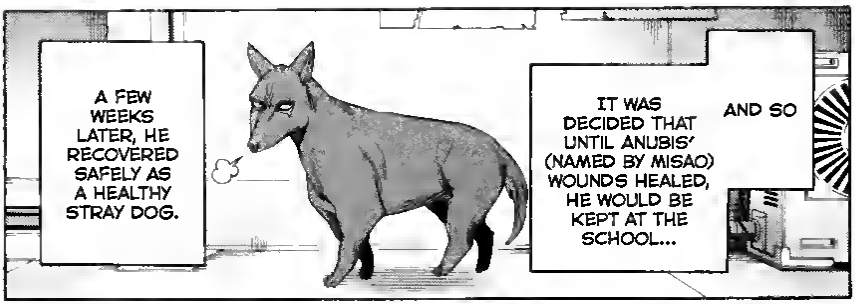
YOU GUYS ARE HERE BECAUSE OF THE DOG?
?
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WOULD BE TROUBLE.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT IT'S WEAKENED BODY AND THE STRESS OF BEING SURROUNDED BY THE VARIOUS EMOTIONS OF HUMANS CALLED A DISEASE DEMON.
IT'S UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD HAVE EMOTIONS AS COMPLEX AS HUMANS... BUT IT'S NOT UNHEARD OF.
BUT AN ANIMAL CATCHING A DISEASE DEMON IS QUITE SOMETHING.

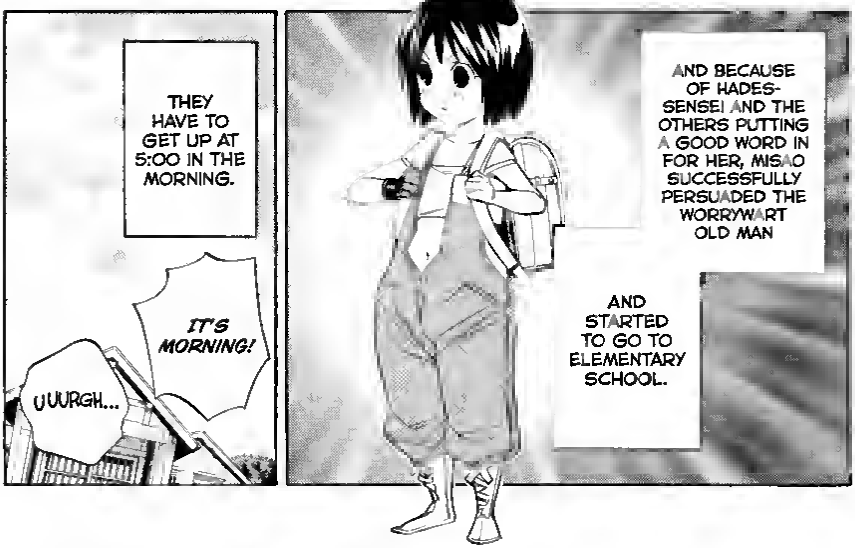
ALL RIGHT, MISAO, THAT'S ENOUGH.

I'M VERY SORRY.
I. I UNDER-STAND.

ANYWAY, UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'VE WORRIED THE OLD MAN
GOING OUT AND ONLY LEAVING A NOTE LIKE THAT IS THE SAME AS RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME.
WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE OLD MAN'S PLACE.
IT...
IT STILL ISN'T DINNER TIME YET...

ASHIBATA-SAN, OKUMOTO-SAN, COME SEE ME IN STAFF ROOM AFTER THIS, OKAY?
HEY, COME BACK ANOTHER TIME!
IT'D BE A WASTE TO BE A 9-YEAR-OLD WHO DOESN'T GO TO SCHOOL!
WE'LL BE WAITING!


A FEW WEEKS LATER, HE RECOVERED SAFELY AS A HEALTHY STRAY DOG.
IT WAS DECIDED THAT UNTIL ANUBIS' (NAMED BY MISAO) WOUNDS HEALED, HE WOULD BE KEPT AT THE SCHOOL....
AND SO


THEY HAVE TO GET UP AT 5:00 IN THE MORNING.
IT'S MORNING!
UUURGH...
AND BECAUSE OF HADES-SENSEI AND THE OTHERS PUTTING A GOOD WORD IN FOR HER, MISAO SUCCESSFULLY PERSUADED THE WORRYWART OLD MAN
AND STARTED TO GO TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

〈長野県　りんごあめさん〉

「汚れたらすぐ着替えるし、予備はたくさん持ってます。常に清潔でないといけないものだからね。そういえば、ひとつ藤くんに取られちゃったんだったな…。」

「返してやれよ！」

「やだよ。寒い時とかなかなか使えるし。」

「ま、まあ別にいいんだけど…。
あ、私服は勿論持ってるよ！
でも、いつ道端で突然、具合の悪くなった人に遭遇するかわからないから、常に仕事着でいるようにしてるんだ。」

「備えあれば憂いなし、ですね！」

「そ、そういう問題かな　。」

〈秋月狭雲さん〉

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MUDA SCANS

CHAPTER 65 - ASSAULT! TOKOFUSHI TOWN

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